

Application Serial No. 09/506,717  
Amendment dated October 28, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated May 28, 2004

**Claims**

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

**Claim 5 (currently amended).** A method for use in deriving fixed bond information, comprising:  
analyzing a delocalized representation of a chemical structure, wherein at least a portion of the delocalized structure representation describes a polycyclic ring system;  
identifying, based on valence information, a plurality of fixed bond representation candidates for at least a portion of the chemical structure;  
evaluating at least a subset of the fixed bond representation candidates;  
selecting from among the plurality of fixed bond representation candidates based on the evaluation; and  
producing fixed bond information based on the selection; and  
outputting the fixed bond information.

**Claim 6 (previously amended).** The method of claim 5, wherein at least a portion of the delocalized representation describes a ring system with a hetero substitution pattern.

**Claim 7 (previously amended).** The method of claim 5, wherein at least a portion of the delocalized representation describes a non-cyclic system.

**Claim 8 (previously amended).** The method of claim 5, wherein at least a portion of the delocalized representation describes an acyclic system.

**Claim 9. (currently amended).** A method for use in deriving fixed bond information, comprising:

analyzing a delocalized representation of a chemical structure;  
identifying, based on valence information, a plurality of fixed bond representation candidates for at least a portion of the chemical structure;  
evaluating at least a subset of the fixed bond representation candidates;

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selecting from among the plurality of fixed bond representation candidates based on the evaluation;

producing fixed bond information based on the selection; and

based on the fixed bond information, producing a fixed bond representation that includes a pair of opposite charges lacked by the delocalized representation; and

outputting the fixed bond representation.

Claim 10 (currently amended). A method for use in deriving fixed bond information, comprising:

analyzing a delocalized representation of a chemical structure;

identifying, based on valence information, a plurality of fixed bond representation candidates for at least a portion of the chemical structure;

evaluating at least a subset of the fixed bond representation candidates;

selecting from among the plurality of fixed bond representation candidates based on the evaluation;

producing fixed bond information based on the selection; and

based on the fixed bond information, producing a fixed bond representation that includes a pair of radicals lacked by the ~~Kekulé structure~~ delocalized representation; and

outputting the fixed bond representation.

Claim 11 (previously amended). The method of claim 5, wherein the step of identifying is performed based on electronic state and valence distribution (ESVD), and further comprising: queuing at least a subset of the ESVDs by priority.

Claim 12 (currently amended). A method for use in deriving fixed bond information, comprising:

analyzing a delocalized representation of a chemical structure;

identifying, based on valence information, a plurality of fixed bond representation candidates for at least a portion of the chemical structure;

evaluating at least a subset of the fixed bond representation candidates;

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selecting from among the plurality of fixed bond representation candidates based on the evaluation;

producing fixed bond information based on the selection; and

using a precomputed table of atom valences as a function of element, charge, radical state, and number and distribution of bonds inside and outside of a delocalized region in the delocalized representation; and

outputting the fixed bond information.

Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the table is configured to allow additional elements and values to be added.

Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the table is configured to allow additional elements and values to be added to apply to any chemical element.

Claim 15 (previously amended). The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
deriving electronic state and valence distributions information together with analyzing the delocalized representation.

Claim 16 (currently amended). The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
determining, by either exhaustion or exceeding a predetermined amount of time, whether it is possible to produce a neutral, non-radical fixed bond representation of the most chemical structures.

Claims 17 and 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (previously amended). The method of claim 5, wherein at least a portion of the delocalized representation describes a monocyclic ring system.

Claim 20 (currently amended). A system for use in deriving fixed bond information, comprising:

an analyzer analyzing a delocalized representation of a chemical structure, wherein at least a portion of the delocalized representation describes a polycyclic ring system;

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an identifier identifying, based on valence information, a plurality of fixed bond representation candidates for at least a portion of the chemical structure;  
an evaluator evaluating at least a subset of the fixed bond representation candidates;  
a selector electing from among the plurality of fixed bond representation candidates based on the evaluation; and  
a producer producing fixed bond information based on the selection;  
said fixed bond information being output by the system.

Claim 21 (currently amended). Computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising a set of instructions for use in a computer system to help cause the computer system to derive fixed bond information, the instructions causing the system to:

analyze a delocalized representation of a chemical structure, wherein at least a portion of the delocalized representation describes a polycyclic ring system;  
identify, based on valence information, a plurality of fixed bond representation candidates for at least a portion of the chemical structure;  
evaluate at least a subset of the fixed bond representation candidates;  
select from among the plurality of fixed bond representation candidates based on the evaluation; and  
produce fixed bond information based on the selection; and  
outputting the fixed bond information.